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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

J. D. Esterline, C/WI/4:08 *JE*

NO.

DATE

8 March 1960

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

Mr. Reynolds

2.

Mr. Tooty

3.

N. Sharpe

4.

M. Fisher

5.

6.

7.

Secy

8.

9.

10.

11.

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13.

14.

15.

2. Copy attached for your retention should you desire.

3. Copy attached for your initial retention and then please forward for Subject file. Thank you.

*Dispatch sent to
Hapuna in Section
C (2). JH.*

7-File QDDALE

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8 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. William Pawley and Pablo FREYRE on Financial and Organizational Matters

TIME & PLACE: 1455 Hours, 2 March 1960; Mr. Pawley's Office in Miami

1. Jacob Esterline, using the name Jacob England, met for two hours with Mr. Pawley and Mr. FREYRE on the date indicated. The following subjects were covered during this meeting:

a. Regarding the bond issue which Mr. Pawley is floating in view of raising \$2,000,000 for support of opposition activities, Esterline told him that the first two candidates to sign the issue were quite acceptable. These people are Emilio OCHOA Ochoa and Dr. Gustavo CUREYO. Esterline said the other two Mr. Pawley had suggested were turned down in Washington--not for any personal reasons, but merely because they had been too closely associated with BATISTA elements in the past. After some resistance, particularly with regard to MARQUEZ Sterling, Mr. Pawley's third candidate, he agreed to consider others. Two of the most prominent candidates mentioned were Antonio VARONA, Autentico leader, and Jorge ZAYAS, former editor of the Habana daily newspaper, La Avance. Although Mr. Pawley and his colleague, Mr. FREYRE, had no reservations with regard to ZAYAS, they were of mixed emotions on VARONA--particularly because of a recent report they had received from RUBIO Padilla in Habana indicating that VARONA is further to the left than had formerly been considered. This point was debated at length and it was finally decided that the resolution would turn on whether or not Mr. VARONA would be willing to come to the States and formally join the opposition.

(NOTE TO MR. ~~ROBERT~~: (1) Where is ZAYAS at the present time and when can he be brought back to the United States to sign the bonds? (2) Have we ever had any leftist traces on VARONA before? Also, is the Station in touch with him and could they determine through a channel other than RUBIO Padilla whether VARONA will, in fact, come to the United States for a purpose such as this?)

Mr. Pawley is pressing for action in getting the bonds signed and his point is well taken. It must be noted, however, that it would be foolish to accept names which are less than acceptable because, in the long run, it would defeat our purpose.

b. On the question of publication of a Cuban newspaper in Miami, Esterline said he understood that Mr. Pawley had made arrangements for the publication of Diario de Marina in Miami. Mr. Pawley said that he had, and with enthusiasm said that he had also been able to locate Spanish conversion kits for the linotype machines which does away with the necessity of buying the machines. Esterline then queried him on what his reaction

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to printing Avance since it would be defunct for all practical purposes in Cuba. Mr. Pawley again said with enthusiasm that he would be prepared to print Avance as soon as ZAYAS returned to the country. It was mutually agreed that this should be one of the priority propaganda targets for the immediate future.

c. During a recent conversation with Chief, WHD in Washington, Mr. Pawley made the remark that through his friends in Miami he had contact with action groups in Pinar del Rio and Camaguey. Prior to Esterline's departure for Miami, C, WHD asked him to look into these groups in more detail with Mr. Pawley. The subject was accordingly raised and Mr. Pawley and Mr. FREYRE, who had most of the substantive information, provided the following:

(1) On Pinar del Rio, Mr. FREYRE said there was a group in that area, but he did not have the name of it at his fingertips at the moment. He offered to get it within the next few days and make it available through Mr. Pawley.

(2) On Camaguey, Mr. FREYRE said that a Doctora [] (sp?) is actively working with retired elements of the old army living in that area. This group--and it would appear that she may have contact with 300 at the moment (the total group is approximately 4500)--is supposedly organizing as a resistance army in Camaguey. Dr. [] has complete responsibility for this organization. She is aided by a Dr. [] Mr. FREYRE said that should anybody attempt to contact [] and she was not present, contact could be made with Dr. [] who would put them in touch with her. Mr. FREYRE appeared to have no further details of the group other than those set forth above. He did say, however, that there was an existing contact plan which anybody could use with complete security either on the telephone or in a personal meeting. This plan would work as follows:

The person contacting Dr. [] should say they are coming from Zeta 39 to talk to Aden 37 (these are old sorority and fraternity designations). Having established this, they should then say to the Doctora that they are coming to consult about agrarian reform. This will establish the bona fides of the person making contact as a friend of Mr. FREYRE.

(Note to Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Toomey: Please have somebody prepare a dispatch on the accessibility of the FREYRE group and suggest to the Station that Headquarters is interested in determining more precisely the numerical strength and composition of Dr. [] group. The dispatch should also suggest that Station Habana select a non-official person to make this contact. Although I would recommend that an American be used for this, I really don't know enough about the situation in Camaguey to know whether the Doctora would be very happy about meeting an American. FREYRE, however, gave no indication that an American making any contact would be objectionable.)

Distribution:

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1 - WHA Memo File

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J. D. Esterline
c/mk/b